



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Agenda

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager (860)441-6630

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Natalie B. Billing, Representatives Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Lori Bartinik, Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Joyce F. Bergeson, Laurie Kim Briggs, Genevieve Cerf, Michael Collins, Warren T. Cooper, Nancy S. Driscoll, Syma Ebbin, June Evered, Peter Fairbank, Melissa M. Finlayson, Irene B. Garagliano, Robert Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Wendy L. Hellekson, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, James Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Jackie Massett, Carole McCarthy, Richard Metayer, Betsy Moukawsher, Scott Newsome, Deborah Peruzzotti, Kevin Power, Betty A. Prochaska, Don Pratt, Jack Sebastian, Jennifer Smuts, Eleanor Steere, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, and Cheryl Tilney

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

7:30 PM

Senior Center

Regular Meeting

- A. ROLL CALL
- B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG
- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2008
- D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

This is the portion of the RTM agenda where the RTM welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to ten minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be limited to matters pertinent to Groton. The Moderator, or members through the Moderator, shall ask questions only in order to clarify the speaker's presentation. Responses may be given by the Moderator and/or by the Town Manager. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

- E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS
- F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:
 - 1. Financial report
 - 2. Monthly briefing
- G. LIAISON REPORTS
- H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Granatosky

2008-0016 Reallocation of CIP Funds - Police Station Renovations

RESOLUTION REALLOCATING CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDING SOURCES BETWEEN LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS (LOCIP) AND CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

WHEREAS, the FYE 2008 Capital Projects budget approved \$205,000 for Project 6)B Police Station including \$150,000 in LoCIP funding to undertake needed renovations to the detectives' work area, including the purchase of furniture, along with changes in interior walls and mechanical and electrical systems, and

WHEREAS, it has since been determined that LoCIP funds cannot be used for the purchase of furniture, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$150,000 in LoCIP funds previously approved for Project 6)B Police Station be transferred to Project 3)C New Sidewalk Construction, and that \$150,000 in Capital Reserve funding previously approved for Project 3)C New Sidewalk Construction be transferred to Project 6)B Police Station.

Refer to RTM

Legislative History

1/7/2008 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of the W

1/22/2008 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, described last year's request to use LoCIP funds for police renovations. Subsequently, it was discovered that LoCIP funds cannot be used for furniture, therefore he is requesting a reallocation of funds between the Route 1 sidewalk project and the Police Station Renovations project. The funding sources will be switched, but there would be no additional funding required for either project.

1/22/2008 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution

2/6/2008 Town Council Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken

2/6/2008 Town Council Adopted and Referred Representative Town Meeting

2/13/2008 Representative Town Meeting Referred RTM Finance Committee

2008-0051 Review of Tax Abatements and Incentives for Businesses

REVIEW OF TAX ABATEMENTS AND INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESSES

Legislative History

2/13/2008 Representative Town Meeting Referred RTM Finance Committee

Moderator Billing mentioned that Rep. Moukawsher has requested a referral to the RTM Finance Committee to review tax abatements and incentives granted to Town businesses. Rep. Moukawsher has questions about the process and has asked for a report to the full RTM.

2. COMMUNITY SERVICES

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Peruzzotti

2007-0140 Town Property at Buddington/Old Buddington Roads

RESOLUTION TO OFFER TOWN PROPERTY ON NORTH ROAD, BUDDINGTON ROAD AND OLD BUDDINGTON ROAD TO CITY OF GROTON UTILITIES

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton owns two parcels of land, amounting to approximately 1.8 acres, on North Road, Buddington Road and Old Buddington Road that were acquired by tax foreclosure, and

WHEREAS, based on the report of the Town's Property Review Team, then Town Manager Ronald LeBlanc and the Office of Planning and Development Services recommended in 1995 that these properties be offered to Groton Utilities for purchase, before being offered for public sale, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Council considered the sale of these properties to Groton Utilities in 1995 for a total price of \$19,208.82, but the sale was not consummated, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton up to this date has not had plans for using the subject land for any Town purposes, and

WHEREAS, Groton Utilities has represented that their ownership of the land would enhance the security and safety of their reservoirs, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton offer the parcels of land on North Road, and Buddington Road/Old Buddington Road, designated with PIN Numbers 169807790529E and 169910366848E to Groton Utilities for the total sum of \$25,000, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon receiving notification of the buyer's legal acceptance of the offer, Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger may execute an appropriate deed and all other documents and certifications necessary for the conveyance of the subject property.

Refer to RTM

Legislative History

5/21/2007 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of the W

8/14/2007 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

Mayor Watson provided a brief history on this issue and the parcel which was obtained by the Town through tax foreclosure and noted that he made this referral. The City of Groton would like to purchase the property for back taxes. Councilor O'Beirne noted some older history when the property was fenced off by Groton Utilities and there were discussions about making the parcel a park. Councilor O'Beirne asked for more research on the history of the property and discussions with the City of Groton.

Town Manager Oefinger noted he spent hours researching this issue and found that there is a single property on Buddington Road, which was last discussed in 2002 in association with a potential walking path along Route 117. There is \$11,526.03 in back taxes owed. Councilor O'Beirne asked for the appraised or assessed value of the land.

8/28/2007 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

Councilor O'Beirne asked why the Council needs to take action on this at this time. He feels this is the Town's last "bargaining chip" to obtain recreational access to the reservoir property. Councilor Scott suggested putting this item on the agenda for a joint meeting with the City of Groton.

9/18/2007 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution

See 9/18/07 Committee of the Whole discussion under 2007-0010 Joint Meeting with City Council (2007 Standing Referral)

10/2/2007 Town Council Removed from Consent Calendar Deletion List

10/2/2007 Town Council Re-referred Town Council Committee of the W

The Town Manager reviewed his discussions with the Town Attorney pertaining to the Town's ownership of foreclosed property, and whether this matter needed to be referred to the Planning Commission and to the RTM.

Responding to Councilor Sheets, the Town Manager confirmed that there was an assessed value of the two parcels involved in this resolution which was provided to the Council at an earlier date.

Upon the suggestion of the Town Manager, the Mayor received consensus from the Council to re-refer this item to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion and pending further information from the Town Attorney.

10/9/2007 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

This item was re-referred to the Committee of the Whole. The Town Manager has not yet received a suggestion from the Town Attorney on how to proceed. Town Manager Oefinger briefly reviewed possible options and further discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

Councilors Kolnaski and Schmidt arrived at 6:50 p.m.

11/13/2007 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger has not received the Town Attorney's opinion on this item yet. The Town Attorney is looking into adopting a procedure for selling a piece of property that has been transferred to the Town through tax foreclosure which would also include Town Council review as soon as property is foreclosed. Mayor Watson asked that this item be placed on the November 20th special meeting agenda.

Town Manager Oefinger provided a brief background on this issue for new Councilors.

11/27/2007 Town Council Committee of Discussed
the Whole

Mayor Watson provided a brief background on this item.

11/27/2007 Town Council Committee of Motion
the Whole

to rescind the previous action recommending this item for a resolution

11/27/2007 Town Council Committee of Motion
the Whole

to refer the potential transfer of property to Groton Utilities to the Planning Commission under CGS 8-24

12/4/2007 Town Council Referred Planning Commission

12/11/2007 Planning Commission Referred Town Council Committee of the W

1/8/2008 Town Council Committee of Discussed
the Whole

Mayor Watson noted that he discovered a 1998 opinion from the Town Attorney advising that this transfer should go before the Planning Commission and RTM. Town Manager Oefinger noted receipt of a positive response on the CGS 8-24 referral from the Planning Commission. Staff distributed a communication from Mike Carey recommending that this item go to the RTM just to be safe, in case there could ever be an interpretation that the Town intended to hold onto this property.

Councilor O'Beirne expressed concern that Attorney Carey's opinion conflicts with Attorney Duggan's. Town Manager Oefinger clarified that Attorney Duggan has outlined a policy for going forward whereby once a property is foreclosed, the Town Council will make a conscious decision whether or not it will be held for a Town use, in which case any future transfer would require CGS 8-24 review by the Planning Commission and RTM approval. Town Manager Oefinger explained the past practice.

Mayor Watson made a referral to the Committee of the Whole to discuss this issue in greater detail.

Discussion followed on changing the wording of the resolution to "offer" the property for sale, rather than "sell" the property.

1/8/2008 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

1/15/2008 Town Council Deleted from Referral List -
Action to be taken

1/15/2008 Town Council Adopted and Referred Representative Town Meeting

2/13/2008 Representative Town Meeting Referred RTM Community Development &

3. EDUCATION

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Fairbank

4. RECREATION

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Power

5. PUBLIC SAFETY

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Pratt

6. PUBLIC WORKS

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Collins**2008-0038 Acceptance of Leonard Drive**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING LEONARD DRIVE IN LEONARD DRIVE SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission, at its January 22, 2008 meeting, recommended the acceptance of Leonard Drive in Leonard Drive Subdivision, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Representative Town Meeting hereby accepts Leonard Drive in Leonard Drive Subdivision.

Legislative History

2/13/2008

Representative Town Meeting

Referred

RTM Public Works Committee

7. RULES & PROCEDURES**a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Evered****I. OTHER BUSINESS****a. Budget Discussion with Manager****J. ADJOURNMENT**